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INFORMATION REPORT

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

1. Censorship in the Democratic Republic of Vietnam (DRV) zone is effected by DRV Surete agents. On the village and district levels these agents collect and inspect all letters and packages before they are sent through the mail. On the provincial level Surete agents are assigned to the Post Office where they systematically examine all mail.
2. In 1947 the DRV organized a censorship training course. However, complex procedures were never taught; the censors still resort to steaming open letters. All mail which seems the least bit suspicious is very carefully scrutinized, a process which often takes considerable time. Sometimes a letter is two or three months in transit from one province to another. All letters must bear the full name and address of the addresser and the addressee, both of whom are often questioned concerning any obscure and seemingly innocent passages found in their letters.
3. Two categories of letters are subjected to close censorship: letters exchanged between relatives or friends of soldiers and of government workers. Only official letters, from one DRV organization to another, are free from censorship. These letters carry, in addition to the black seal of the organization in question, a red seal bearing the DRV motto: Independence - Liberty - Happiness.
4. All information printed in DRV newspapers is censored by the editorial staff of the newspaper prior to its publication and therefore is not subjected to further censorship. All newspapers published in the French-controlled zone are prohibited and anyone caught possessing one is considered guilty of high treason. The only DRV organizations authorized to receive newspapers from the French-controlled zone are: The DRV Press and Propaganda Bureau of the Cong An; the Executive Committees of the Lien Viet Front. It is forbidden for members of other organizations to receive or read these newspapers. But in spite of these restrictions, prohibited newspapers are circulated clandestinely within the DRV zone. A Hanoi newspaper can be obtained in Interzone IV

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five days after publication, and in Thai Nguyen within two days after publication. The delivery of these newspapers is almost regular.

5. In addition to censorship by the Censorship Service, each DRV organization exercises its own censorship. This censorship is extremely strict in the Army, the Central Government Services and in the Training Schools: no member of these organizations is permitted to tell where he is stationed, the nature of his work, or the identity of his fellow workers. DRV combatants and cadres are subjected to trials such as this so as to encourage them to divorce themselves from their families.

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